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COUNTRY Argentina

Attempts by Prominent Croats to Lift Argentine

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Dumigration Ban 25X1A6a

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PLACE

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SUBJECT

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SUPPLEMENT 1 REPORT NO.

- 1. Dr. Branko Benzon, who until the arrival of Ante Pavelich was considered the most important Croat in Argentina, and Father Stjepan Draganovich, who has been instrumental in the immigration of Ustashi from Europe to Argentina and other South American countries, are collaborating in an effort to lift an Argentine Government ban on the immigration of Slavs. Draganovich is said to have traveled to Buenos Aires from Italy for the purpose of removing the ban as far as Croat immigrants are concerned. Benzon has a more personal interest in the matter since he has exerted in the past, considerable influence in Yugoslav immigration matters and has, with the help of others, ruled on the acceptability of Yugoslav immigrants. Both men hope to enlist the aid of Argentine Catholic circles.
- 2. The Argentine Government stopped issuing entry permits to Slav displaced persons as a result of a talk between Argentine Foreign Minister Dr. Juan Atilio Bramuglia and Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vishinsky at which time Vishinsky expressed his displeasure over the issuance of Argentine visas to thousands of displaced White Byelorussians. The ban also was motivated to some extent by the desire of many Croat immigrants to return to Yugoslavia after a very short stay in Argentina. The Argentine authorities would prefer that these immigrants remain in Argentina to become nationals of the country and, in the case of younger immigrants, to serve in the Argentine armed forces.



